

Animal Control

808.1 POLICY

It is the policy of the Hudson Police Department to protect animals from abuse and/or neglect and to protect community members from the dangers and annoyances that animals may cause. The care of animals and the protection of the community are done through the complaint process, investigation and enforcement of State Statutes and Municipal Ordinances.

808.2 ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

The City of Hudson contracts for the services of an Animal Control Officer. The Animal Control Officer has primary responsibility for the investigation of Municipal Ordinance violations pertaining to the licensing and control of animals. This however does not relieve police officers from taking enforcement and/or corrective action and assisting the Animal Control Officer when necessary.

The Animal Control Officer shall make a log of complaints and activity detailing his/her requests for service. This log shall include the time and date complaints are received, the complainant's name, and the action the Animal Control Officer took.

808.3 ANIMAL COMPLAINTS

Barking Dogs

Barking dogs can be very annoying, especially when the barking is continuous or late at night.

Upon receiving a complaint, prior to 10:00 p.m. the Animal Control Officer will respond to the source or area of the complaint in an attempt to locate and address the problem. After 10:00 p.m., an on-duty officer will respond to the complaint.

If the animal is located, the owner will be contacted and advised of the complaint. The animal owner will be advised of the ordinance prohibiting the annoyance conduct and issued a warning notice for first violation. In subsequent violations the officer may issue a citation.

If the officer is not able to contact the owner of the animal, a warning notice will be left in a conspicuous place.

In instances where the Animal Control Officer has responded to the area of the complaint and after a reasonable time has not been able to locate the source of the complaint, he/she shall notify the St Croix County Dispatch. Any additional complaints during that day should be referred to the duty officer for follow-up.

Animals at Large

Municipal Ordinance requires all dogs and cats to be leashed when off the owner's premises.

Upon receiving a complaint, a determination should be made if the animal is currently at large.

If the animal is at large, the Animal Control Officer should respond and make a reasonable effort to capture it. If the animal is captured and the owner identified, the animal can be released to the owner. If the owner of the animal cannot be contacted, the animal shall be impounded.

Hudson Police Department

Hudson Police Dept Policy Manual

Animal Control

Pests

Wild animals may become pests by getting into garages, garbage cans, attics, etc. Typically, these types of complaints are handled by an officer (by contract, Animal Control does not deal with wild animals). The officer will handle this type of complaint by euthanasia or live trap. Typically, a complainant is provided a live trap to capture a wild animal. The DNR will be contacted to determine if they have a location for the animal to be taken. In situations where there is no location, euthanasia is the only option.

Animal Bites/Abuse

All animal bites and abuse must be reported to the Police Department for investigative purposes.

The following are options:

In all situations a report must be filed.

A person bitten must be advised to seek medical attention.

Investigations will be done by a police officer, a police officer and contracted animal control officer, or by the contracted animal control officer. The officer must verify if the animal had the appropriate shots, and licensing.

Animals must be quarantined as defined by the City's contracted animal control provider, for a period of not less than 10 days.

If the animal is not under control at the time of the bite, a citation must be issued.

In situations where an animal has been destroyed, the animal carcass should be preserved, and transported to the Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Center (Gortner Avenue, in the Minnesota State Fair Grounds, St. Paul, Minnesota 651-625-8787), during business hours.

Vicious Animals

Animals exhibiting viciousness, and are not under control by its owner, and constitute a danger to the public should be considered a vicious animal. The responding officer, along with the animal control officer should attempt to control the animal, and if not possible, the officer should destroy the animal.

808.4 ENFORCEMENT

It is the responsibility of the Police Department and the Animal Control Officer to protect people and animals in the City of Hudson through enforcement of applicable ordinances and statutes. In most situations, the following guidelines will be used.

Education

Proactively educate the public on legal guidelines on animal control issues.

Enforcement process

Hudson Police Department

Hudson Police Dept Policy Manual

Animal Control

On first offense, issue warning notices. An exception is flagrant violations. An officer should determine a flagrant violation (i.e. dog bite, animal causing damage, etc)

Second and subsequent offenses will result in a municipal citation being issued.

Criminal offenses (dog attack, animal abuse, etc.) will always result in criminal charges.

The Animal Control Officer may issue warning notices, and based on determination of the Chief of Police, may issue ordinance citations.

Impound/Release

Animals that cannot be released, will be impounded at the city's contracted impound sight. Prior to the release all fees should be paid.

All long term impounds are kept at the Animal Humane Society, 9785 Hudson Road, Woodbury, MN 55125, Phone: (651) 730-6008.